financial support as well as support for cluster based development, latest technologies, quality upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial and management development and other support measures. Further, Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which has become operative from 2nd October 2006 to provide a dedicated statutory framework to facilitate the promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness. Measures taken by the Government from time to time for the promotion and development of MSEs and to enhance their competitiveness have helped them to compete in the global as well as the domestic market, as is evident from their growth in terms of number of units, and contribution to national production, exports, employment generation, etc.

Hazardous chemicals used in small industries

†1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTEPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the hazardous chemicals used in small industries;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to lay down any safety norms for companies using chemicals so that workers life could be protected and they may work without fear; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) For controlling the use of hazardous chemicals, including that by industry, the Government of India has notified the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and Chemical Accident (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996. Under these rules, industries are required, *interalia*, to take the following measures to avoid chemical accidents:

- Preparation of on-sight and off-sight emergency planning;
- Preparation of safety reports and conduct safety audits;
- Prescribe notification on site handling hazardous chemical;
- Report major accidents;
- Preparation of Material, Safety Data Sheet for hazardous chemicals;
- Constitution of Crisis Groups – Central, State, District and Local Level Crisis Groups.

Further, industries are required to provide necessary safety and health measures for the workers under the Factories Act.

Effect of global recession on MSMEs

1364. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(a) whether the micro, small and medium enterprises in the country have been badly hit by the global economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much job loss has been caused due to this crisis;

(c) whether Government has not come up with any plan to save the interests of the micro, small and medium enterprises as has been done in the case of other sectors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the specific demands of the sector; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address the issues?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) In the wake of recent global financial crisis, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has been receiving representations from various Micro and Small Enterprises (MSB) Associations highlighting problems with regard to credit squeeze by the banks, high rates of interest on MSE loans, reduction in orders, delayed payments by the big enterprises, etc. While no specific information on job loss has been furnished, the Associations apprehend that if the present situation continues, it may lead to considerable lay-offs in the sector.

The Government has announced on 7th December 2008 specific measures to support the MSME sector, which *inter alia* include: (i) extending guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme on loans from Rs.50 lakh to Rs.I crore with guarantee cover of 50 per cent and reducing lock-in period for loans covered under the scheme from 24 to 18 months; (ii) to issue an advisory to Central Public Sector Enterprises and request to State Public Sector Enterprises to ensure prompt payment of bills of MSMEs; (iii) cut of 4 per cent in the ad valorem Cenvat rate for the balance part of current financial year on all products (other than petroleum and those where the current rate is less than 4 per cent) and (iv) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector upto 31st March 2009. Further, the Reserve Bank of India has announced a refinance facility of Rs. 7,000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to facilitate the flow of credit to MSMEs.

Amenities to labourers at Shakurbasti cement siding

†1365. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5200 labourers are engaged in loading and unloading at Shakurbasti cement siding in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these labourers are not provided with the facilities of sleeping, toilet, bathrooms etc. and they work under adverse situation;

(c) the number of requests made to Government by Railway Contractor Works Men's Union Cement Siding, Shakurbasti to provide various facilities to these labourers; and

(d) by when proper management by Government would be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As labourers engaged in loading/unloading at Shakurbasti cement siding are arranged by private contractors on behalf of railway customers, no record of number of labourers is maintained by railway administration.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi